

S. Martins in the fieldes, 15. Augusti 1626.

WHereas, vpon hearing the cause in controuersie betweene *Matthew de Quester*, Esquire, Postmaster of *England* for Forraigne Seruices, and *Henry Billingsley*, who pretended to bee admitted by the Lord *Stanhop*, His Maiesties Postmaster generall, at the suit of the Merchants Aduenturers, for the transporting and importing of Letters into and from Forraigne parts, from and into the Citie of *London*; it was formerly ordered, That the sayd *Henry Billingsley* should not meddle in any sort with the transporting or importing any more Letters to or from any Forraigne parts without His Maiesties Dominions, as being directly against a Grant and Proclamation of the late King, vntill the Cause should bee clearly determined in Law, and brought to a Iudgement: And whereas it now appeareth, partly by the confession of the sayd *Henry Billingsley*, and partly by the attestation of *Thomas Albertus*, and partly by Letters sent from Forraigne parts, that the Office for such Letters to be sent and receiued, is still kept in the dwelling house of the sayd *Billingsley*, where hee personally resideth; And that the sending and receiuing of the sayd Letters, is still gouerned by those who were his hired seruants, and to whom hee payeth wages; and that all Moneys for postage of the Letters are taxed in that Office, and being receiued by *Thomas Albertus*, are by him from time to time payd ouer wholly to the sayd *Billingsley*, and that speciall Packets directed to *Matthew de Quester*, and containing dispatches to some Counsellors of State, and namely to a Principall Secretary for His Maiesties seruice, haue bene receiued and detained in the said Office, and there taxed at extraordinarie Rates, and paiement exacted for the same to be accompted to the sayd *Billingsley*; against which reall Euidence, nothing being alleadged but colourable words of excuse, that these things were not done in the name of *Billingsley*, and that the former Order extended no further then to his person. Now therefore to take away all such vaine pretences, and for further explanation of the said Order, not onely the sayd *Henry Billingsley*, but *Thomas Albertus*, *George Robins*, *William Ellam*, *William Scapes*, the late seruants and Agents of the sayd *Billingsley*, and all others are required to forbear directly or indirectly, vpon any colour or pretence, contrary to His late Maiesties Grant and Proclamation, to meddle in any sort with the transporting or importing, or with the rating or postage of any Letters to or from any Forraigne parts, vntill the Cause be clearly adiudged, as they will answere the contrary at their vttermost perill, wherein those that haue the charge and commandement in the said Proclamation to repress offenders, will not faile to doe their dueties, if after so many admonitions any presume to disobey.

E. Conway.

J. Coke.

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to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie. M.D.C.XXVI.